



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Las Vegas Field Office
4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89130-2301



In reply refer to: 1610-5.G.1.4

September 2005

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review is the Proposed Resource Management Plan (PRMP) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area (NCA), which contains the North McCullough Wilderness (Wilderness). The PRMP was prepared by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in consultation with cooperating agencies, taking into account public comments received during this planning effort. This PRMP provides a framework for the future management direction and appropriate use of the NCA and Wilderness, located in Clark County, Nevada. The document contains both land use planning decisions and implementing decisions to provide planning structure to facilitate management of the Sloan Canyon NCA. The PRMP is open for a 30-day review and protest period beginning September 30, 2005, the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the Notice of Availability of the FEIS in the *Federal Register*.

This PRMP and FEIS has been developed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, and the Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002. The PRMP is largely based on Alternative C, the preferred alternative in the Draft Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS), which was released on March 25, 2005. This document contains the proposed plan, summary of changes made between the Draft RMP/EIS and PRMP, predictable impacts of the proposed plan, summary of the written and verbal comments received during the public review period of the Draft RMP/EIS, and responses to the comments received.

Any person who participated in the planning process for this PRMP, and has an interest which is or may be adversely affected, may protest approval of this PRMP and land use planning decisions contained within it (see 43 Code of Federal Regulations 1610.5-2) during this 30-day period. Only those persons or organizations who participated in the planning process leading to the PRMP may protest. The protesting party may raise only those issues submitted for the record during the planning process leading up to the publication of this PRMP. These issues may have been raised by the protesting party or others. New issues may not be brought into the record at the protest stage.

Protests must be filed with the BLM Director in writing. Regular mail protests should be sent to: Director (210), Attention – Brenda Williams, PO Box 66538, Washington DC 20035. Overnight mail should be sent to: Director (210), Attention – Brenda Williams, 1620 L Street, NW, Suite 1075, Washington DC 20036. Email and fax protests will not be accepted as valid protests unless the protesting party also provides the original letter by either regular or overnight mail postmarked by the close of the protest period. Under these conditions, BLM will consider the E-mail or fax protest as an advance copy and it will receive full consideration. If you wish to provide BLM with such advance notification, please direct E-mails to Brenda_Hudgens-Williams@blm.gov and faxes to (202) 452-5112 (Attn: BLM Protest Coordinator).

All protests must be postmarked on or before October 30, 2005 and shall contain, at minimum, the following information:

- The name, mailing address, telephone number, and interest of the person filing the protest.
- A statement of the part(s) of the PRMP, and the issue(s) being protested. To the extent possible, this should be done by reference to specific pages, paragraphs, sections, tables, maps, etc., included in the document.
- A copy of all documents addressing the issue(s) that the protesting party submitted during the planning process or a statement of the date they were discussed for the record.
- A concise statement explaining why the protestor believes the Nevada BLM State Director's proposed decision is believed to be incorrect. This is a critical part of your protest. Take care to document all relevant facts. As much as possible, reference or cite the planning documents, or available planning records (e.g. meeting minutes or summaries, correspondence, etc.).

The BLM Director, will render a decision on the protest. The decision will be in writing and will be sent to the protesting party by certified mail, return receipt requested. The decision of the BLM Director shall be the final decision of the Department of the Interior.

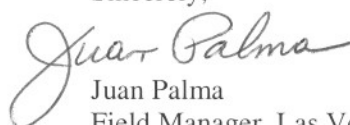
Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name and street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written protest. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations and businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

Unlike land use planning decisions, implementing decisions are not subject to protest under planning regulations but are subject to administrative remedies and review, primarily through appeals to the Office of Hearings and Appeals (Interior Board of Land Appeals). Implementation decisions generally constitute BLM's final approval allowing on-the ground actions to proceed. These types of decisions require site-specific planning and NEPA analysis. Where implementation decisions are made as part of the land use planning process, they are still subject to the appeals process or other administrative review as prescribed by specific resource program regulations after BLM resolves the protests to land use planning decisions and makes a decision to adopt or amend the Resource Management Plan (RMP).

These administrative remedies for final implementation decisions usually take the form of appeals to Office of Hearings and Appeals, though for certain proposed or non-final implementation decisions, such as proposed grazing decisions, the regulations provide for an internal agency review (usually a protest to the Authorized Officer) which must be completed before the final implementation decision can be appealed to the Office of Hearing and Appeals. This type of protest to the Authorized Officer should not be confused with the protest of land use planning decisions to the BLM Director.

Upon resolution of any protests, an Approved Plan and Record of Decision (ROD) will be issued. The Approved Plan will be mailed to all who participated in the planning process and will be available to all parties through the "Planning" page of the BLM national website (<http://www.blm.gov>), or by mail upon request. The Approved RMP and ROD will include the appeals process for implementing decisions that may be appealed to the Office of Hearing and Appeals following its publication.

Sincerely,



Juan Palma
Field Manager, Las Vegas